

Filed for intro on 02/02/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 578  
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to urge the Federal Surface Transportation Board to reject an application by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the Canadian National rail systems to merge the two companies.

WHEREAS, freight rail transportation is an essential part of the economy of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the freight railroad industry continues to struggle with the implementation of recent mergers in the western and eastern United States; and

WHEREAS, the freight railroad industry remains very unsettled and requires time to stabilize from ongoing mergers; and

WHEREAS, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Canadian National Railroads have announced their intentions to combine their operations; and

WHEREAS, the timing of this merger proposal is not only premature but will likely trigger the final round of the railroad industry consolidation at the most inopportune time; and

WHEREAS, a new round of premature industry consolidation could threaten the future viability of the U.S. rail system; and

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WHEREAS, a new wave of railroad industry consolidation could divert management attention and resources from the successful execution of recent rail mergers; and

WHEREAS, another wave of railroad industry consolidation before shippers are convinced they have received the benefits of the most recent mergers is almost certain to result in industry re-regulation; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of America's freight rail system could be Canadian controlled should this transaction be approved; and

WHEREAS, several organizations, including the United Transportation Union and the Chemical Manufacturers Association, have announced their opposition to the proposed Burlington Northern Santa Fe/Canadian National merger; and

WHEREAS, approval of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe/Canadian National merger could have a detrimental effect on the U.S. defense transportation network; and

WHEREAS, jobs and industries throughout the State of Tennessee could be negatively affected by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe/Canadian National proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we strongly urge the Federal Surface Transportation Board to reject any application by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the Canadian National rail systems to combine their systems under common control as not being in the public interest at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Chairman of the Federal Surface Transportation Board with this final clause omitted from such copy.